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TOWN TALK

By THE MAN ABOUT TOWN.

A Solon gathered me to his heart on the corner of Fort and King streets yesterday eve and whispered that he had a secret to communicate. "If it is a secret," said I, "why hurry up and tell it." To abbreviate an extended yarn, he declared that the exclusive story in The Star the other day of the threatened hold up by the Senate of the House administration immigration taxation bill unless the House would pass the Senate liquor bill, was the direct cause of the Senate reconsidering its action to defer the bill and passing the bill as it did. The members who had circulated the threat, finding that the public was wise, did the best thing and the right thing and passed the immigration taxation bill, without regard to what the House might do with the liquor bill. Oh, you sweet publicity, how many benefits are accomplished through thy power. Not to mention the fact, which I ascertained on good authority, that the shadow of Holstein's big stick fell across the hallway and was felt by some of the Senators who realized that the House was going to do what it jolly well liked in regard to the liquor bill, so what was the use of playing mean with the immigration measure.

There's a certain member of the House of Representatives who is a very, very active member, and without a good fellow, but he is too sensitive to stand in the sunlight and he even sees the shadow of a sheltering palm when a stray moonbeam yearns to kiss his brow. I heard that he objects to the newspaper men at the press table looking at him when he talks, and I also know that he raised a row with himself because one reporter said he introduced a freak bill and because another reporter likened him unto a persistent pup pulling at a root. Not wanting to hurt his feelings further, the kindly press forgot to mention his name for a couple of days and it was really pathetic to see him buying the papers and looking in vain to find his name. He almost wept when he got up to make a speech and noticed that the press walked out on the veranda to take a smoke. He is human, if he is from the Fifth District, and it hurt him not to see his name in the paper. So now he is going to be good and not kick like a baby every time he is justly criticized. He's got sense, all right, but doesn't always know how to use it.

Of all the men in Washington who are interested in Hawaii and who are doing good work there for the Territory there is one who stands out in the very first rank. Not only in the first rank in helping Hawaii, but also foremost among the strong men of the capital. This is F. H. Newell, director of the Reclamation Service. Looked up to and respected throughout the country as a man of sterling worth and exceptional ability, every word which he says is given full weight. The visit paid by Mr. Newell to Hawaii last year made him an enthusiast over the Territory and since that time, though his branch of the service is not allowed a single cent to work on in this section of the United States, he has done everything possible to help us in our many difficulties. The extension of the Reclamation Act to these islands is his pet hobby, of course, and will mean great things for us when he gets it through, as he will in time.

In this connection the decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury, in refusing to allow money from general appropriations to be spent here, creates indignation in every department in Washington. He says that because the Organic Act of this Territory provided specifically for the extension of the Internal Revenue department and other branches of the service to Hawaii, it means that no other moneys which are not appropriated directly for use in the islands can be spent here.

The Comptroller of the Treasury in one way at least, and that an important one, is the biggest man in the United States, "bigger'n ole Grant" as the old story went. He is the only man in the United States, not even the President being excepted, whom the United States Supreme Court may not mandamus. He is monarch of all he surveys and in these islands he refuses to survey.

In regard to the expenditure of general appropriations it is interesting to learn that the Comptroller has already reversed himself in this regard. That is he has allowed money from such appropriations to be spent here, but, under his last whim, which he now sticks to closely, Hawaii is banned and barred. Hawaii's friends in the departments in Washington say that as soon as the present Comptroller dies we will come in for our own. Let us hope so.

Echoes of the Mahuka site row which was started in Washington, and also completed there, seem to be always interesting and from what can be heard it came very near to creating a good sized disturbance between Governor Frear and Delegate Kuhio. The Executive, "It is said," was firm in his stand for the Irwin site, in spite of the

cablograms which were received from this city. Then the Delegate got his back up. He knew and was positive in regard to what his constituents wanted and finally came out flat-footed with the declaration that if Governor Frear and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Winthrop arranged the matter to suit themselves he would handle the matter in Congress.

Then the Mahuka site exchange stopped. In fact it stopped so suddenly that something broke. As it was proposed to give Irwin a bonus of \$20,000 in addition to the Mahuka site, with the opposition of the Delegate nothing could be done. It looks to me as though it was a rather good thing to have some one at hand to use the safety brake.

The Matson steamer Hilonian certainly has many unique features but there are two that I should like to call the attention of the public to in particular. There may be another steamer in the world which can boast of a real live Italian count as its steward, but I never heard of it. In the person of Joseph di Lombardo, of Palermo, Italy, Count of Diaperina, this should certainly give the Hilonian the same rank as the Kinau used to have when "Admiral" Beckley was in supreme command of the carried lobster in the inter-island fleet. Another thing in this regard too, Joseph is a first class steward, which it hurts me to acknowledge on account of the dislike which I, as an American citizen, naturally feel against the title "gentle" of Europe.

A second feature to be found on the Hilonian is the vocal trio which defines the evening hours of the passengers when the weather is good. The leader is Chief Engineer Klitzgard, whose subterranean bass attracts dolphins, sharks and passengers. Purser Charles Drew, with basso profundissimo voice, plays opposite the chief,

while the tenor part is well handled by Wireless Operator Madam, whose melodious voice has caused him to be named the walking, talking, breathing, sparkling, aerial conductor. Sparkling is next to singing in his accomplishments. It is said, his one kilowatt machine being of great assistance.

The proposition of filling the Federal positions, which come up now and again in Hawaii, is one which is causing a great deal of bother in Washington circles. The trouble comes not in finding candidates but in finding the right candidate. Just now there are two positions open, or at least to be filled, those of U. S. District Attorney and Federal Judge. For the first, a strong man of irreproachable character and with EXPERIENCE is wanted. A lawyer who is able to stand up and fight through to the last ditch with any attorney who may be opposed to him is the only qualified candidate. There comes the rub. Would A. G. M. Robertson, W. A. Kinney, or any other men of that stamp take the position of U. S. District Attorney with its insignificant salary of \$3,000 and bound down by the recent decision that they may not take outside practice? Certainly they would not. Still one may name on the fingers of one hand all the other men in the Territory who would have a chance against these two in either a civil or a criminal suit and not one of them but earns more than \$3,000 per year, with the additional factor of being far safer than the Federal office holders from the attacks of fanatics. In the position of Federal judge it is a little different. The salary of \$6,000 per year is more adequate, though by no means large. Still when a man of the calibre of Justice Ballou feels that he cannot afford to accept the position, something is wrong. Hawaii is fortunate in its judges, having clean men in the positions throughout the Territory, but then comes a question. If offered more in another position would they stay on the bench, where they are living practically from hand to mouth? It is very doubtful. But the chief trouble comes in the lack of men. Not that Hawaii cannot average as high or higher than most of the

states, but on account of the fact that we have so few men in any one profession. The salaries of high standing outside of this city are very few indeed and one does not have much difficulty in making a selection here. Washington sees this and it may result in magnificence being sent, which will incidentally pay off some old political debts owed by this or that senator to a constituent.

MAYOR HARPER FORCED OUT

LOS ANGELES CITY HEAD RESIGNS
UNDER FIRE OF NEWSPAPERS—
GRAFT AND VICE PROTECTION.

LOS ANGELES, March 11—Mayor A. C. Harper tonight resigned as Mayor of the city and also withdrew as a candidate to succeed himself in the recall election which is to be held on March 26th. The resignation and withdrawal came as a complete surprise and caused a sensation, occurring as it did in the heat of a campaign which has been hotly waged for weeks by the municipal league and civic bodies, and as bitterly contested by the friends of Mayor Harper. It follows closely the resignation of Edward Kern as a member of the Board of Public Works, whose appointment by Mayor Harper to that position was given by the political opponents of the Mayor as one of the principal causes for the recall election.

For several months two of the leading newspapers of the city have been publishing articles intended to prove that Mayor Harper has permitted vice of all kinds to be protected in this city, and that his own official and private acts have not been above reproach. An unsuccessful attempt was made by Thomas Lee Woolwine, a former assistant city attorney, to bring before the Grand Jury of the county specific charges of grafting and misconduct against the Mayor.

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See To-morrow's Advertiser for Particulars
as to Prices, Etc.

The Sale of Women's Shoes will be continued together with the Big Purchase of Dry Goods all this month.

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